

"Unfortunately," Doctor Davison continues, "the diseases peculiar to early infancy kill nearly as many now as in 1898. In order to insure the greatest health to an infant, the prevention of disease should commence as soon as the mother knows she is pregnant, as her health as well as that of her unborn infant is greatly affected during this period. The changes in organs are sudden. There is a double load on the heart and kidneys. The importance of diet and its effect on both mother and child cannot be overemphasized. Disease of the mother, heart disease, tuberculosis and syphilis, also is an important cause of mortality soon after birth. No patient requires more frequent and detailed checking than does the expectant mother.

"The causes of deaths among children which can be prevented by better care during pregnancy and delivery and immediately after birth include prematurity, birth injuries, suffocation, impetigo (a skin disease) and syphilis.

"Sixty per cent of infant deaths occur in the first month of life and nearly half of them are due to prematurity," the doctor states. "Seventy per cent of the deaths of the premature babies take place in the first twenty-four hours; this is more than double the percentage of deaths of full-term infants during the first day."

He points out that the longer the delivery of a premature infant can be delayed the greater is the weight of the unborn child and the lower the infant mortality.

"Mortality can be reduced if every pregnant woman has her blood pressure determined and her urine, heart, and lungs examined every month during her pregnancy," the doctor states. "The oftener a pregnant woman visits her physician, the greater is the probability of her having a normal living infant. The mother also should visit her dentist two or three times during pregnancy so that her teeth may be kept in good condition."

Proper feeding of the infant and immunization against such diseases as smallpox, whooping cough, diphtheria, typhoid, and paratyphoid fever are some of the other measures named by Doctor Davison for the preservation of child health.

Deficiency diseases, such as pellagra, rickets, and scurvy, can be prevented by proper diets. Deaths from automobile accidents are preventable, especially for children, who should be taught at home and at school to take precautions constantly.

"Benefit from vaccination against infantile paralysis has been proved, but during an epidemic children under twelve years of age should avoid crowds, swimming pools, and indoor contacts with other children and especially adults, many of whom may be carriers.

"Everyone must be instructed not to expectorate or cough while near children or to kiss them. Any member of the family, servant, nurse, and any other person who comes in contact with children should be carefully examined by x-rays for tuberculosis if such a person has a chronic cough, however mild."—*Santa Clara Journal*, April 5.

## LETTERS

**Subject: Number of Licensed Naturopaths in California.**

(COPY)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS  
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

San Francisco, California,  
March 30, 1940.  
Yours of March 25,  
Re: Naturopaths.

Dear Doctor Kress:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 25, which reads:

"Kindly send to me your latest figures concerning the total number of naturopaths who are licensed to practice in the State of California. Mr. J. W. Holloway, Jr., Acting Director of the American Medical Association Bureau of Legal Medicine and Legislation, seeks this information."

In reply, beg to direct your attention to the 1939 directory published by the Board of Medical Examiners, wherein on page 29 appears the notation that there are thirty-one naturopaths in active practice, who were licensed by the special act of the legislature in 1909, which is mentioned

in the last paragraph of page 26 of said directory. Since that time no license to practice naturopathy, *per se*, has been issued under the laws of this state. A large number of licensed chiropractors hold naturopathic diplomas, obtained by one means or another, but are not licensed "to practice naturopathy." This chiropractic group, in conjunction with several other holders of naturopathic diplomas, have at practically every legislative session endeavored to secure passage of a naturopathic bill, but so far without success.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,  
*Secretary-Treasurer.*

**Subject: Use of the title "Doctor."**

(COPY)

Sacramento, California,  
April 8, 1940.  
Yours of March 28,  
Re: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Doctor:

There is no provision in the law which compels a graduate of an osteopathic school holding a physician's and surgeon's license and who uses the prefix "Dr." to follow his name with the suffix "D. O." or any indication that he is a graduate of an osteopathic school.

The last Legislature passed a law requiring all licentiates, excepting holders of physician's and surgeon's licenses who use the prefix "Dr.," to follow their name with the words "Drugless Practitioner," or "Chiropodist," as the case might be.

The Chiropractic Initiative requires a licentiate thereunder who uses the prefix "Dr." to follow his name with the suffix "D. C." or the word "Chiropractor."

Regretting our inability to help you in the matter mentioned in your letter, believe me

1020 North Street.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,  
*Secretary-Treasurer.*

**Subject: Trichinelliasis in San Francisco—The Type of Food Involved.**

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

April 13, 1940.

To the Editor:—For the eleven-year period, 1929 to 1939 inclusive, there were 264 cases of human trichinelliasis reported to the Department of Public Health in San Francisco. In tracing down the source of the disease, in respect to the alleged food involved, it is interesting to note that the survey shows the following:

Food	Cases
Pork sausage .....	58
Salami .....	54
Fresh pork .....	36
Mettwurst .....	30
Ground pork and meat loaf .....	11
Raw pork .....	8
Pork chops or steaks .....	5
Ham .....	4

Other foods noted included imported sausage, head cheese, mixed Chinese food, pickled pork, raw bacon, smoked pork, and thirteen cases in which the food was unknown. Of unusual interest was the reporting of seven cases in which the food causing the trichinelliasis was bear meat.

In 1934, of the thirty cases of trichinelliasis reported, many were traced to salami, and strict control measures were instituted for the preparation and sale of salami.

Active control regulations covering the display of placards warning the public to cook all pork thoroughly, such cards being placed in retail butcher shops and in kitchens of restaurants and hotels, together with the enforcement of higher standards on hog ranches supplying pork to the San Francisco abattoirs, the elimination by condemnation of others, and also a laboratory check on fresh pork entering the San Francisco abattoirs, all contributed in reducing the number of cases reported.

Beginning with 1935, the number of cases of trichinelliasis reported were as follows:

	Cases
1935 .....	31
1936 .....	18
1937 .....	9
1938 .....	19
1939 .....	3

This was in definite contrast to the cases reported for the six years preceding 1935, when there were 184. It could be considered, therefore, that improvement has been made in the attempt to eradicate trichinelliasis in San Francisco.

This survey has demonstrated some of the difficulties involved in obtaining specimens of food for laboratory analysis where trichinelliasis is suspected. Of the 264 cases reported for the period 1929-1939, inclusive, laboratory examination of the food involved was obtained only in twenty. Diagnosis in many cases was by clinical findings and examination of the patient's blood for further confirmation.

101 Grove Street.

Sincerely,

J. C. GEIGER, M. D.,  
*Director of Public Health.*

**Subject: Address by Paul de Kruif.**

SAN FRANCISCO TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION

April 8, 1940.

*To the Editor:*—Attached is a brief notice of a dinner to be held in San Francisco on the evening of May 28, at which Paul de Kruif will be the principal speaker. We will be grateful if you can give such notice of it as you consider appropriate in the next issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

Yours truly,

WILLIAM C. VOORSANGER, M. D.,  
*Secretary.*

✓ ✓ ✓

*San Francisco Tuberculosis Association.*—Paul de Kruif, bacteriologist and author of various books dramatizing progress in medical science, will be the principal speaker at a dinner in the Hotel St. Francis the evening of Tuesday, May 28, arranged by the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association.

Dr. Sidney J. Shipman, president of the California Tuberculosis Association, was chairman of the committee in charge. Other members of the committee were: Dr. George H. Becker, director of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Department of Public Health; Rev. Richard T. Howley, assistant director of Catholic charities and director of Catholic hospitals in San Francisco; Dr. Karl F. Meyer, director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research; and Dr. William C. Voorsanger, president of the municipal Board of Health.

**Subject: Medical Advice Over the Radio.**

*To the Editor:*—The following resolution has been endorsed by the Medical Society of New Jersey:

*Resolved,* That the Joint Committee on Professional Relations request the Medical Society of New Jersey and the

New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association to enter a formal protest against the prescribing of medicines and the giving of medical advice on the radio, with the exception of such broadcasts on health matters as are given under the auspices of recognized associations of licensed physicians or federal, state, and local health departments; and be it further

*Resolved,* That such protest be sent to the broadcasting companies and the Federal Communications Commission.

We stated that promotion of self-medication over the radio on behalf of nostrums was becoming more subtle and that radio announcers endeavored to tie up their messages with complimentary references to the medical and pharmaceutical professions. We further stated that, in our opinion, the time had arrived for action to curtail this sort of activity and we expressed the hope that your organization would pass a resolution similar to the one noted above. . . .

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS.

Prescott R. Loveland, *Secretary.*

**Subject: Testimonial Dinner to Dr. George Dock on His Eightieth Birthday.**

*To the Editor:*—On the evening of April 2, 1940, at a dinner at the headquarters of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, Dr. George Dock, surrounded by some seventy of his friends, colleagues, and former students, celebrated his eightieth birthday. Although his real birthday falls on April 1, a happy conjunction of events led to its celebration on April 2. These events were the founding of the George Dock Lectureship by the Walter Jarvis Barlow Society of the History of Medicine, and its initiation by Doctor Dock himself as the first lecturer.

The celebration was, therefore, in the nature of a triple birthday—the birth of the Walter Jarvis Barlow Society of the History of Medicine whose first public meeting it was, the birth of the George Dock Lectureship in the History of Medicine, and the eightieth birthday of Doctor Dock.

After three powerful puffs which disposed of the eighty lighted candles surrounding his birthday cake, Doctor Dock was permitted to sit back and listen to the many messages from all parts of the United States and Canada. There was a message from Charles Perry Fisher of Philadelphia, who for many years was librarian of the College of Physicians and whom Doctor Dock called "the first medical librarian" he had ever seen, reminding him of his first years as a medical student in Philadelphia. There was a message from Dr. Rock Sleyster, President, and Dr. Alphonse McMahon, Vice-President, of the American Medical Association; from Dr. George H. Kress, Secretary of the California Medical Association; from Dr. Roy E. Thomas, President, Dr. Paul Ferrier, Vice-President, and Dr. L. A. Alesen, Secretary, of the Los Angeles County Medical Association; from Dr. Elizabeth Mason Hohl, President-Elect of the American Medical Women's Association; and from Dr. H. E. Schiffbauer, Chairman of the Library Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Then, from the various institutions where he had taught, there were warm reminders that he still lives in the memory of those with whom he worked, and that the monuments he built in teaching, organization, and friendship still stand. Thus there was a message from Dr. Alexander Ruthven, President of the University of Michigan; from Dr. C. C. Bass, former dean of the Medical School of Tulane University, New Orleans, who was most closely associated with Doctor Dock while he was in New Orleans; and from many friends on the faculties of these institutions who expressed their happiness at having known Doctor Dock, and their appreciation of the good influence he had on their lives, many dating this influence back as long as forty years. From St. Louis came greetings from colleagues,